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FM CIA

TO STATE EYES ONLY FOR RUSK, HARRIMAN, BALL, HILSMAN, HUGHES
OSD EYES ONLY FOR MCNAMARA, GILPATRIC, TAYLOR, KRULAK,
MR. WILLIAM BUNDY

WHITE HOUSE EYES ONLY FOR MCGEORGE BUNDY.

BT

~~SECRET~~ EYES ONLY CITE CAS SAIGON 2439

FOR STATE, DOD, JCS AND CIA

HONOLULU FOR CINCPAC

JOINT EMBASSY, MACV, CAS MESSAGE

REF DEPTEL 570

1. THIS IS THE THIRD OF THREE MESSAGES IN RESPONSE
REFERENCE AND DEALS WITH SUPPORT OF NVN OPERATIONS.

2. REFERENCE DICTATES THAT MACV AND CAS CONSIDER AND
RECOMMEND TO THE AMBASSADOR WHETHER NORTH VIETNAM OPERATIONS
SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED BY CAS TO MACV IN WHOLE OR IN PART. THIS
MATTER HAS BEEN UNDER STUDY BY THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS WHO
HAVE MADE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS IN WHICH AMBASSADOR
LODGE CONCURS:

A. IF THE PROGRAM IS TO CONTINUE AT SUBSTANTIALLY
ITS PRESENT LEVEL AND UNDER CURRENT POLICY ORIENTATION,
THE PROGRAM SHOULD REMAIN UNDER CAS SUPPORT AND
GUIDANCE. IT WILL REQUIRE CONTINUED AND EXPANDED
MACV SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY THE MARITIME PROGRAM.

B. IF THE PROGRAM IS TO BE EXPANDED IN SCOPE AND
IN POLICY ORIENTATION TO THE OPERATIONAL LEVEL VISUALIZED
IN THE CINCPAC 33 AND 34 PLAN SERIES AND IF THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT A REDUCTION
OF PLAUSIBLE DENIAL TO A LEVEL OF DISCREET OVERT

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OPERATIONS, AND TRANSFER CAN BE RECONCILED TO MACV PHASE-OUT, IT IS DEEMED FEASIBLE AND IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST TO TRANSFER THE PROGRAM FROM CAS TO MACV. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, CAS PERSONNEL WOULD PHASE OUT THE PROGRAM OVER A SIX-MONTH PERIOD FROM THE DATE OF APPROVAL. CAS WOULD CONTINUE SUPPORT OF MACV IN CERTAIN SPECIALIZED AREAS.

C. UNDER BOTH CONCEPTS CAS SHOULD RETAIN DIRECTION AND COORDINATION OF THE PSYOPS AND DECEPTION PROGRAM JOINTLY CONDUCTED WITH THE VIETNAMESE AGAINST NVN.

3. WE ARE PREPARED TO OUTLINE IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURES AND AMPLIFYING DETAILS APPLICABLE TO COURSE B ABOVE DURING THE 20 NOVEMBER HONO CONFERENCE.

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